

FY 2002 SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Navajo National Monument



Betatakin Ruins, circa. 1921

FY 2002 SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT NAVAJO NATIONAL MONUMENT

FY02 Budget

Vanishing Treasures	\$ 111,733
Ranger Services	\$ 185,585
Maintenance	\$ 237,330
Administration	\$ 102,694
Superintendent	\$ 111,070

Navajo National Monument ONPS **\$ 747,412**

Staffing

? permanent FTEs	8.4
? temporary FTEs	<u>3.6</u>
Total	12.0

Navajo National Monument experienced some difficulties this year that resulted in a reduced operation for most of the visitor season. Seasonal staff was hired, but most of them left early. Due to the extreme fire danger this year, Keet Seel was closed for a majority of the visitor season. Tours to Betatakin were also greatly reduced. In late winter and spring, Glen Canyon NRA brought in Roger Moder to assist with operations. In September, Superintendent Charles was assigned other special duties and Glenn Gossard was named as Acting Superintendent.

Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Assessment (GMP/EIS)

Navajo National Monument collected final comments on the GMP/EIS. The initial comment period in the Federal Register (FR July 19, 2002, Vol. 67 No. 139) closed on September 30, 2002. However, the US Fish and Wildlife Service requested an extension which was granted through October 4, 2002. Comments were received via the internet, by email or hard copy. We made distribution of the Draft GMP/EIS by mail and also hand-delivered them to Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, and Southern Paiute tribes. We also hand-delivered copies to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (Tuba City Agency) and the Indian Health Service (Kayenta). The Intermountain

Support Office assisted us in carefully tracking all comments and establishing systematic files as the comments arrived. Some of the comments received requested follow-up meetings and such meetings were held on October 30-November 1, 2002 with the Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department, the Hopi Tribe, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We are now addressing all comments received by mail, email, Internet, or hand-delivery as we develop the final GMP/EIS, and plan to post the ROD in the Federal Register in early 2003.



Review of 1962 MOU between NPS, BIA, and Navajo Nation

A review of the 1962 Memorandum of Agreement between NPS, BIA, and Navajo Nation was completed in May 2002. Pursuant to Section 8 of that agreement, an updated MOU is being negotiated with the Navajo Arts and Crafts Enterprise (NACE) to manage the gift shop area of the Navajo National Monument Visitor Center. The MOU is expected to be signed by the NPS and

the NACE in early 2003. The current occupant (Betatakin Arts and Crafts), who is purportedly in trespass, has been requested to vacate on or before December 31, 2002.

Memorandum of Understanding – Law Enforcement

A draft project management schedule for the development of a law enforcement agreement was completed on August 13, 2002 along with a draft MOU developed after numerous meetings with the Navajo Nation Department of Justice and Navajo Police Chief. The proposed agreement would provide procedures for responding to emergencies on and near Monument boundaries. The proposed MOU would ensure optimal responses to emergency conditions (such as medical, law enforcement, fire, or maintenance) that maximize protection of human health, park resources and park facilities while minimizing risk to responders. Capabilities under the proposed MOU are subject to the limits imposed by existing personnel, equipment, and availability of congressional appropriations.

Project Aviation Plan

Through a Project Aviation Plan with Mesa Verde National Park (MEVE) which was approved in September 2002, 5,200 pounds of cargo (fencing materials and related equipment) was delivered via helicopter sling loads to the remote backcountry archeological site, Keet Seel, in the Monument. Approximately 200 pounds of equipment and solid waste were also removed from the Keet Seel archeological site. This project was completed at a cost of \$3,280.

Reports

Required annual reports were completed in timely fashion:

- ? FY02 Annual Volunteer-in-the-Parks (VIP) Program Activity and Expense Report (10-150)
- ? FY02 Service-wide Interpretive Report (10-769)
- ? FY02 Visitor Use Report

Plant Study Group

Under a grant, the Navajo National Monument Plant Study Group will complete a 15-minute DVD on the demonstration of Navajo Basket Weaving. This interpretive project involved outreach to middle school students at Shonto Preparatory School and Navajo basket weaver Mary Martinez. WPNA provided funding for this project as well. A copy of the DVD will become a permanent piece of the Monument library and is available for viewing by visitors in the Monument auditorium. The DVD is expected to be released by the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department after final edits in early 2003.

School Outreach

Interpretive rangers provided outreach programs and visitations to the Monument to the following area school systems during 2002.

- ? Gift and Talented Program at Tuba City Boarding School
- ? Navajo Department of Headstart in Kayenta
- ? Page Unified School District

? Shonto Preparatory School

Volunteers In Park

Four volunteers provided demonstrations in Navajo basket and rug weaving. These services were located in the main lobby of the park visitor center throughout the second half of the visitor season.

Interpretive Services

Interpretive services were scaled back this year due to a lack of staff and the extreme fire danger that was experienced throughout the last half of the visitor season. The following interpretive contacts were made:

? Visitor Center	558,920
? Informal Interpretation	149,196
? Formal Interpretation	7,360
? Education Programs	2,617
? Special Events	4,604
? Audio/Visual Programs	38,567
? Community Programs	498
Total	761,762

Western National Parks Association

WNPA provided valuable products and services again this year. \$5,000 was secured through WNPA to purchase a collection of local Native American arts and crafts from former superintendent Jack Williams. This collection will be accessioned and some items will be used for interpretive displays in the future. WNPA also paid a stipend to three local artisans who provided demonstrations of basket and rug weaving through the summer months. WPNA also covered the cost of having an onsite sales clerk for 1,600 hours in FY02.

Youth Conservation Corps

A YCC crew of five local youths was hired this year. This crew worked on several projects including the rehabilitation of the amphitheater. They were able to replace all the seating in the amphitheater. Additional work was done to install new lighting.

Road Improvement Projects

Navajo National Monument provided a support letter to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, WNA Roads, for the construction and paving of BIA N-221. The realignment and improvement of N-221 as early as FY04 would provide an economic savings to employees and visitors of the Monument who now travel an extra 41 miles via State Hwys 98 to 564 to get to the Visitor Center from Page, AZ.

The Shonto Chapter has also requested a support letter to the Arizona Department of Transportation for road improvements to State Hwy 564, the main access road to the Visitor Center from US 160.

Fuel Reduction

A fire crew from MEVE came to the park and provided some assistance with fuel reduction around the residence and maintenance areas. They also cleared some vegetation from around the historic ranger station. They will return in FY03 to complete this work.

Vanishing Treasures

Despite both VT positions at Navajo National Monument being vacated during FY02, several VT projects were conducted.

Prior to his departure in November 2001, Kevin Harper managed the Cultural Resource program and continued oversight of contracts and tribal consultation.

Melissa Memory was then temporarily promoted to Kevin's position and managed the Cultural Resource program, collections, and provided oversight of contracts and tribal consultation. Melissa also wrote the scope of work for the VT Condition Assessment SEPAS Project and worked with the contracting officer to secure a contract.

WACC continued its archives integration project for cultural resource primary documents, cataloging photographs and documents and scanning archives onto indexed CD's. This project will enable stabilization and site documentation to be easily accessed by VT staff without impacting primary documents. \$21,999 of lapsed VT salary was used to augment this agreement with WACC and the University of Arizona.

Lapsed salary funds were also used to support a field session of an ongoing architectural documentation project at Inscription House with VT and other cultural resource personnel from MEVE and the Flagstaff Areas, under the direction of Larry Nordby (MEVE), and field supervision of Julie Bell (MEVE) and Al Remly. With a large crew of 18, this session furthered completion of the documentation project that has been ongoing since 1999. Topographic and site mapping was also completed during this project, as well as establishing permanent mapping stations. \$17,900 was used for this project.



Throughout the year, VT Structural Engineer Preston Fisher, worked with Melissa Memory and Kevin Harper and established a crack monitoring project at Inscription House, revived a monitoring project at Keet Seel, conducted maintenance on stabilization structures at Betatakin, and assessed structural integrity at Turkey Cave and Snake House ruins.

Betatakin

VT SEPAS project money for NAVA (\$72,500)

Due to the vacating of one VT position, it was decided to contract out the documentation portion of the Condition Assessment Project for Turkey Cave, Snake House, Owl House, and Kiva Cave. C Dimensions, a cultural resource management contractor specializing in three dimensional photogrammetric data recording from Plano, Texas, was awarded the contract for \$68,900.

Medium and large format stereo pairs of photographs were taken of the architectural features of all sites from both plan-view and elevations, from which were developed three-dimensional AutoCAD drawings of all wall segments noting condition and provenienced elements. The original high quality photographs also provided an archived baseline for future work. Melissa Memory conducted the actual condition assessment for each wall using the MEVE condition assessment form package. The remaining project funds were used to buy a color laser printer and additional cartridges for the Monument after the departure of VT staff.

Fencing Project at Keet Seel

A new chain-link fence was installed at Keet Seel this year. This project involved replacing portions of the barbed wire fence located where most visitors approach the site. The remainder of the fencing was inspected and mended where needed.



Keet Seel